

*Richard and Beverly Stroud
14515 Wisteria Hollow Lane
Houston, TX 77062*

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

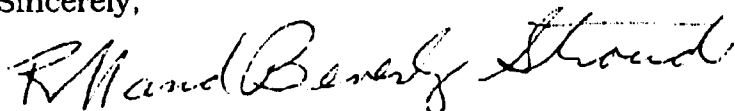
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It is high time we wrap up this lawsuit between Microsoft and the Justice Department. It has dragged on for three years now and it is time that we saw its resolution. A settlement is now on the table and only needs to be agreed upon by all parties. I see no reason that this settlement should be changed.

There are several very good provisions within this settlement. One of the most beneficial provisions included within the settlement is one that prevents Microsoft from taking any kind of retaliatory measures against a company that would promote software not developed by Microsoft. This greatly enhances competition in the market and also helps the smaller software companies compete. Furthermore, there are provisions that prevent Microsoft from entering into any contracts that would restrict or hinder competition in the market by forcing a computer manufacturer from only promoting Microsoft software with their product. These are provisions that will benefit the information technology market.

I worry that any more restrictions will begin to hinder the market and the ability of companies to operate freely. In addition, the next step in restrictions could very well be the break up of the Microsoft Corporation, which is no way a good thing. Therefore, I urge you to leave the settlement in its current form. There is no reason to alter it. It does what needs to be done and nothing more. I thank you for your time and I am sure you will do what is best for this country.

Sincerely,



Richard and Beverly Stroud